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Appomattox, Virginia

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EDITORIAL OPINION

MR. DEWEY'S RETIREMENT

(The Bedford Democrat)

The announcement of Thomas E. Dewey that he will not be a candidate for Governor of New York again this November appears to remove from the stage of top-flight politics, at least for the time being one who has been a national figure for more than twenty years. Governor Dewey, of course, could have had the Republican nomination and probably could have been elected for a fourth term as governor of our most populous state. His announced retirement leaves the race for his job wide open, and gives the Democrats a good chance to win it. It would not be surprising to see history repeat itself and to find another Franklin D. Roosevelt in the Goveronr's Mansion at Albany next year. FDR, Jr. seems to be ahead in the contest for the Democratic nomination. His election would strengthen the left wing of the national Democratic party and probably raise grave questions for Virginia, and other Southern Democrats when the national convention comes around in 1956.

Governor Dewey suffered one of the bitterest disappointments ever to befall a political figure when he was beaten by Harry S. Truman in the 1948 presidential race. That contest was all but conceded to Mr. Dewey, but the little man from Missouri fought his way to victory. His disappointment did not keep Mr. Dewey from continuing his service to his party and to the nation, and more than any other man he was responsible for the nomination of General Eisenhower in 1952. For that he has never been forgiven by the reactionary wing of his own party. This element still appears unable to see what was so clear to most Americans in 1952—that Senator Taft could not have been elected and that it he had been nominated and defeated the Republican party would have been on the brink of oblivion. This Republican right wing still seems intent on the destruction of the party, and there is a good chance that it will help bring about a Democratic victory in the congressional elections, now less than two months away. Leaders like the President and Governor Dewey have given the GOP a new lease on life.

It is not to be expected, therefore, that Governor Dewey's retirement will be permanent. In spite of the fact that he has twice been the Republican candidate for president and has served 12 years as governor of New York, he is only 52 years old, an age at which most politicians are just rising to prominence. He will have more opportunities to serve his state and country.

WORLD MILD PRODUCTION UP 6 PER CENT IN 1953

(Farm Bureau News)

The postwar upward trend in milk production which was broken by a slight decline in 1952 was reumed in 1953 when production increased in the 14 major milk producing countries by 6 per cent to just under 319 billion pounds. The Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA, reports that the increase was general with all countries showing production gains.

About one half of the increase can be attributed to greater milk cow numbers while the other half of the gain was due to an increased production per cow. Even though milk cow numbers are still 4 per cent under prewar in the 14 countries, milk production is 113 per cent of the prewar average.

The proportion of total production going to fluid purposes dropped from 39.8 per cent in 1952 to 38.4 per cent in 1953. However, the fluid consumption ratio in the 14 countries is substantially above prewar when about one-third of the total production was so consumed.

MARKETS MOVE TO THE CUSTOMER

(Note: Following from Monthly Review, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond).

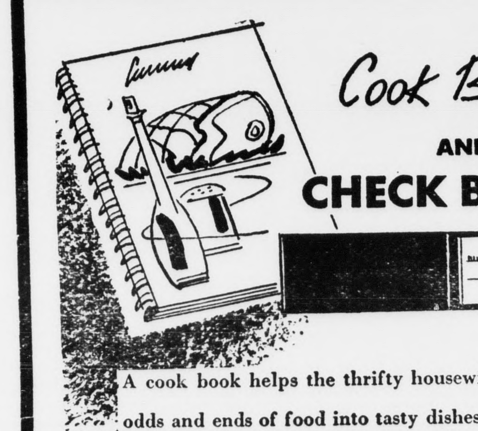
The wave of prosperity that rolled over this country after World War II helped stimulate and finance an unprecedented trek of the population to the suburbs. In turn, suburbanization has been one of the greatest stimulators the national economy has ever known. The result has been a near-revolution in markets and in marketing methods and techniques.

There's hardly been a form of business activity that has not been beneficially affected, directly or indirectly, by the suburban movement. It has even been a dominant factor in the baby boom—in fact the two are practically inseparable and are part and parcel of the same stimulative forces. These forces stem from the preceding periods of war and depression, when both births and homebuilding lagged markedly, as well as from the overall prosperity of the postwar period.

It was estimated by FORTUNE in late 1953 that the number of suburbanites increased from .8 million in 1940 to about 30 million in 1953. This increase of 12 million people represented almost one-half of the total growth of the nation's population during the period. The 20% increase in the later was overshawowed - in significance as well as size - by the 67% increase in persons residing in the residential rings immediately within and without the city limits of cities in the 50,000-and-over size group.

An important point is that most of this suburban growth has occurred in recent years. Three fourths of the 12 million increase from 1940 to 1953 dates from 1947. Thus, while the entire population of the country was increasing 11% from 1947 to 1953, the suburban count rose about 43%.

As fast as the population has been increasing, the retail market has been growing still faster. And the suburban market is topping the total retail market. There's no simple arithmetical relationship between increases in population and retail sales. The latter, particularly in the suburbs, have already grown far beyond the point indicated by the actual increase in consumers. The leverage has come from a number of factors—rising incomes, growing size of a more affluent middle class, price inflation, marketing developments such as the supermarket, and, of course, the shift to the suburbs. New families, new residential areas new houses, new furnishings, new ideas about size of families, about where and how to live—all these have contributed to the making of a new market, the size and nature of which are growing and changing every day. * * * *.



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KILROY'S STILL HERE

(The Washington Post)

Gen. Matthew B. Ridgeway, Army Chief of Staff, has doggedly held the attention of defense planners to the still very great importance of the foot soldier in any possible war. In making this fight, General Ridgway has played an immensely necessary role. Some of his colleagues who have been bemused by push-button-warfare talk have grown weary of his constant iteration of fundamentals. Some of the more vigorous advocates of economy in the Defense Department have thought that he was too much concerned with fighting the last war over again. But the evidence supports the general in his contention that the soldier still is the indispensable element in war.

"Dispersion, mobility and the increased range and destructiveness of modern weapons all tend to enlarge the area of the front-line battle zone and emphasize the need for defense in depth," General Ridgway said in a speech the other day. "More units of smaller size are required to perform the missions of fewer units of larger size." The Army is regrouping some of its divisions as a result of the lessons it has learned in atomic weapon experimentation. It is clear that the Army must train units that are more mobile and adaptable, and more training for atomic offense and defense is needed. The Army's roles in supplying forward units and in holding evacuated areas may require, as the general said, more rather than fewer men than in the past.

General Ridgway has not underemphasized the significance of the new weapons or the need for further scientific developments. Atomic bombs, guided missiles, fast planes and ships are all required. The recent danger, however, has been that the foot soldier might be neglected —might be neglected so soon after World War II, Korea and Indochina demonstrated that he cannot be dispensed with. Modern weapons have changed the scale of modern war without reducing the load on the private or sergeant.

AMERICA NEEDS A PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM

(Note: By Sylvia F. Porter, reprinted in The Democratic Digest from the New York Post).

The President's economic high command has a report locked in its files that is so astounding it hasn't dared publish it.

For months, the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisors studied the public projects needed right now to pull the nation back into minimum physical shape, keep the country from coming apart at the seems.

Highways—absolutely essential to catch up with the growth of our economy since 1940, to give us at least a fighting chance to defend ourselves in case of atomic war....

Schools—absolutely essential to provide some decent education to the swelling ranks of our pre-adolescents and teenagers....

Water systems—absolutely essential to meet the needs of our growing population, take care of the surge to the suburbs....

And hospitals .... And sewers ....And airports....

The White House economists developed conservative figures on each of the public projects; they added up the figures; they came to:

Over $100 billion of public works projects needed by this country right now to get us into half-way acceptable shape.

Over $100 billion of projects needed now!

* * * *

Our roads are not only obsolete. They are also a dangerous drag on our prosperity. They interfere with the market for cars and trucks. By so doing, they cut the demand for all the materials going into cars and trucks. They curb the growth of our metropolitan areas. By do doing they curb the growth of the economy generally.

Whatever is said about our roads applies with equal force to our schools, water and sewer systems, hospitals, etc., etc.

This is the greatet backlog of demand left on our economic horizon—an anti-slump weapon we haven't even touched.

As we dig into the backlog, we will make jobs, create buying power, improve our defenses, raise our health and education standards.

Boom or bust, these are public projects that must be undertaken — for our own welfare. We haven't even started to dig into this backlog; nor is there any foreseeable end to the backlog when we do start digging.

MORE LIVESTOCK

(Va. Department of Agriculture)

For 20 years now, the percentage of the Virginia's farmer's income dollar that comes from crops has been going down and the percentage that comes from livestock has been going up.

In 1934, the ratio was 60 per cent from crops and 40 per cent from livestock. Last year it was almost exactly the reverse, 60 per cent from livestock and 40 per cent from crops.

Generally, the reason for this is that in spite of price support and farm aids of every sort, each crop and species of livestock has tended to gravitate to the part of the country where it could be produced most efficiently.

In this period, Virginia cotton has become a minor crop because of cheaper labor to the South and irrigated valleys free of boll weevil in the far west, and Virginia poultry has become Virginia's number one income producer because of good climate and nearness to markets.

Irrigated Western orchards have reduced Virginia apple trees, while new pastures and the advent of grass-fed cattle and feeder calves have built a new beef industry.

But the important thing is that all signs point to a continuance of the trend. Virginia farmers might well prepare to raise more livestock and fewer crops, whether they like the idea or not.

THE GRIP OF GOLF

(The Dallas News)

A dispatch says there are eight million golfers in the world. Five million are in the United States. In 1888 there were less than a dozen. By 1913 there were 350,000. The addict is hopelessly abdicted, admits it and can give twice as many reasons for stopping as continuing. But few stop. That is not true of fishing or tennis or hunting. Of games devised for enjoyment, none inflicts such anguish. Maybe the fascination is this: In golf, the golfer's main opponent is himself. He can't blame a bad shot on his opponent. When he makes a good one he alone can take credit. Golfers are increasing 20,0000 a year, increasing, says the dispatch, "geometrically." So is the anguish. But so is the facination. Take it from there psychologically, and tee off.

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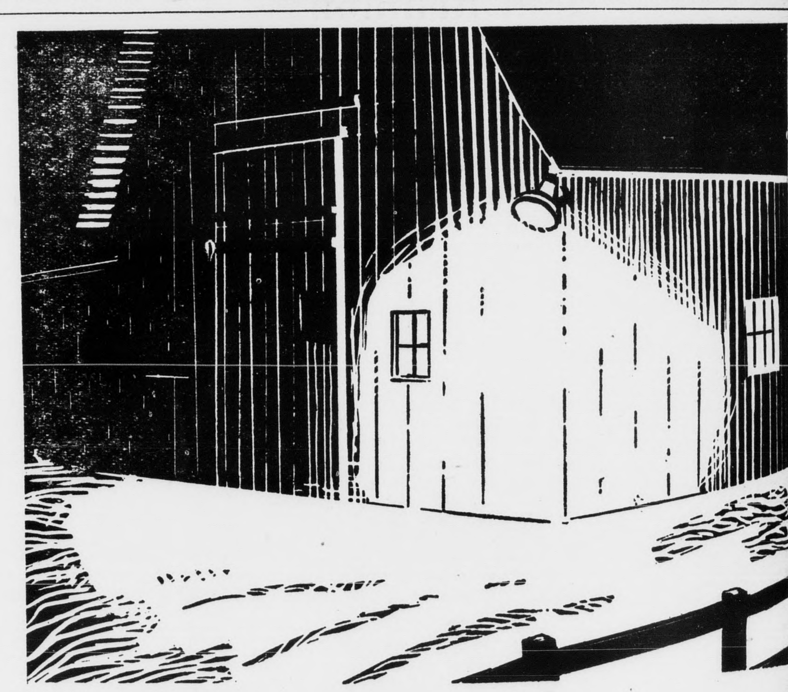
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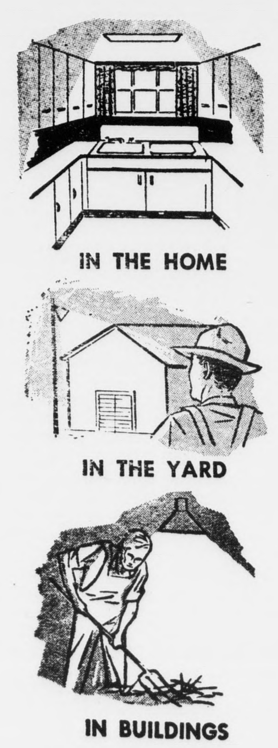

When electricity first came to farms many years ago, electric lighting was the first consideration. And today, though the uses of electricity have multiplied a hundredfold, no other single use is more important, and though earlier farm lighting was limited to the barest needs of illumination . . . today, it means a whole new LIGHTER way of life!

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

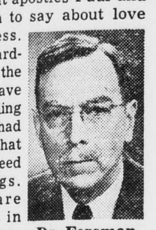
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48; 18:21-35; Ephesians 4:25—5:2; I John 4:7-21.
Devotional Reading: I John 3:18-24.

Growing in Love

Lesson for September 19, 1954

A great deal is said about "love" but not enough has been done about it. Jesus taught that Christians must love even their enemies. He and his great apostles Paul and John had much to say about love and forgiveness. Paul would hardly have given the warnings he gave against quarreling and strife if he had not thought that Christians need these warnings. Few words are used oftener in Christian sermons than "love"; few are more misunderstood. Few ideals are held up oftener by the church; few are violated more often by church members. Love is a clouded theme; some questions may help to clear it up.



Dr. Foreman

Christian Love

The first question is: What is the difference between Christian love and what usually goes by that name? It should be plain to any one who can read the Bible that when Paul and John and Jesus speak of "love" and urge it as a duty of all of us, they are not thinking of romantic love as between men and women. That is a good, important, happy and sweet kind of love. No life is fully complete without it; but Christian love is a wider thing. All kinds of love except Christian love have limits. You love your family, your country, your friends, people you know and like. Jesus asks us to love even our enemies. A circle of love that will take in enemies must be something extraordinary, and so it is. Ordinary love, then, has limits, small or wide; Christian love knows no limits. Again, ordinary love is possessive, it wants the loved one for itself. Christian love is self-giving. Ordinary love is strictly human and can be found in those who do not know God.

Christian love is divine; it is not only like God's love but is found only in the lives of those who have been touched by God's Spirit. Ordinary love is given to the lovable; the divine kind of love, the Christian kind.

Loving and Liking

Another question is: How can we love those we do not like? And can we like everybody? A clue to the answer is found in what we know of the love of God. Jesus very clearly suggests that we are to be Godlike in our love; indeed our highest Christian growth comes right here, because when we are most truly filled with this kind of love we are most like God. But it is plain that God does not like every one he loves. We read that God loved us "while we were yet sinners." If we could say that God likes murderers, adulterers, traitors, thieves, foul-mouthed and cruel men, we should have to say that God shows very poor taste. But we are nowhere told that God likes sinners, that is to say that he enjoys their company, enjoys what they do and say. Far from it. If he liked them he would never change them. It is written, "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth" but it is just as true to say, "Whom the Lord loveth he changeth." Love, in the Christian, God-like meaning, is concern for the true welfare of the loved one. A father may love his son (and God does love his sons), even when he thoroughly disapproves what the son is doing. So we are not expected to like everybody, regardless; that would be rather silly. But as Christians we are expected to have concern for the true welfare of every one.

Can Love Be Perfect?

A third question is: Can our love ever be perfect? Here Christians differ in their understanding of what Jesus and Paul and John taught, and of what is possible for us. All Christians agree that only one life expressing perfect love, from beginning to end, has ever been seen—the life of our Lord. Some Christians believe that it is possible, sometimes, to act from a motive of unadulterated, unalloyed, unreserved, unqualified Christian love. Other Christians believe that this is never possible for a human being, even a Spirit-blessed Christian. Two things are certain at this point. One is that even if the motive is sometimes absolutely pure, human knowledge is never perfect. Our concern may be completely unselfish, but not completely wise. The other certainty is that even if the motive is never absolutely pure, nevertheless perfection is always the high goal.

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Drougth Brings Out Irrigation Question

What about drouth insurance — in the form of irrigation?

That's a question being posed by more and more Virginia farmers these days, after two years of severe drouth, overseeing parched fields, selling off livestock, and watching the cash pile dwindle.

It's a question with some answers — without some.

Agricultural experts at VPI see it this way.

There are now in Virginia some 325 systems—the great majority of them the sprinkler type, and most of them purchased since World War II. In 1953 (figures not yet available for 1954) the total acreage irrigated by these systems was over 12,000 acres, with them in truck crops (5,389 acres) and hay and pasture mixtures (5,035 acres), followed by corn, tobacco, fruits and berries, nursery stock, and finally a paltry five acres of peanuts and three acres of cotton. It all added up to over 1,600,900,000 (billions) gallons of supplemental rainfall — badly needed, it was generally agreed.

Not Enough Water

Many farmers who want irrigation systems can't have them because there simply isn't an adequate water supply. The experts agree that some sort of water-use regulation (now under study by the Virginia Legislative Advisory Council) would at least make for a more equitable distribution of what water there is. Streams rank first as a source of supply, followed by reservoirs fed by streams, and irrigation ponds, in that order. However, almost all the farm ponds in Virginia are too small. To irrigate one acre of land a farmer should be able to count on one acre of foot-deep water.

Whether or not irrigation will pay is just matter of cold economical facts. Enough water is the first "must." And it costs about $100 an acre to install a system, varying of course on the size of the system. Second, will it cost more to get the water on the field than the value of the extra production coming from the irrigation?

The chances are that many farmers will find irrigation a paying proposition on high value crops. It is being particularly boosted in Virginia's Eastern truck-crop area where losses in just three crops — Irish potatoes, snap beans, and sweet corn— are estimated at well over a million dollars this season because of dry weather.

Needs Vary

Researchers at VPI point out that the need for irrigation on various field and forage crops has varied from practically none in 1949 and 1950 to a maximum of 16 inches on irrigated pastures in 1953.

In experiments in 1953 irrigation did pay handsomely! Adding 10 inches of water on burley tobacco increased the crop value by $316 per acre. Corn yields were increased from 60 to 152 bushels per acre with the same amount of irigation using VPI 645 hybrid with about 16,000 stocks per acre and fertilized with 1,000 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer.

Milk Production Upped

In dairy pasture experiments using ladino clover-orchard grass, ladino clover Kentucky 31 fescue, and alfalfa .. orchard-grass mixture, 16 inches of supplemental water increased cow days on pasture 83%, and production of milk by 77%. Furthermore, the irrigated herbage proved to have a dry matter digestibility 6% higher than the non-irrigated checks.

In beef animal tests with native bluegrass-white clover and ladino clover-orchard grass mixtures, 16 inches of water increased carrying capacity about 65%. The steers on the irrigatted pasture gained 48 pounds per head more than those on the non-irrigated areas. Total gross return from irrigation in these tests was about $70 per acre.

Other irrigation tests on 14 different forage species and mixtures gave similar high response to irrigation. Annual yields as measured by clippings showed 75% to 85% increases where irrigation was used.

Translated to practical application down on the farm, these results could be startling.

However, the agricultural experts don't recommend irrigation systems without first pointing out all the other things a farmer can do to conserve water on his land. The researchers are working with various methods of mulch tillage, runoff prevention, better equipment. Save the water, they say by better farm practices.

For the drouth years..or for any year..they say, good farm management is good insurance. They have worked out what they call a "12 month-feed plan" which if followed would be a bulwark against a dry day. They are continuously studying and developing better methods of production, storage, and marketing which they hope will alleviate any future need for a red-white-and-blue crutch in the form of governmental aid.

YEAR-ROUND COVER BEING BOOSTED FOR VIRGINIA

Virginia farmers are being advised to establish vegetative cover crops this fall to protect cropland which will be shifted from production in 1955.

W. W. Lewis, agronomist at VPI, says the practice fits in with cross-compliance of total acreage allotments in the 1955 Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation program. It is suitable to land being taken out of allotment crops because of the allotment program, but is not limited to such acreage.

Lewis says information concerning this "year-round cover" practice has recently been released to county ASC managers, and he urges study of the practice as approved by the county ASC committee.

It is proposed that the 1955 program will provide for a seeding of summer cover crops such as sudan, millet, sorghum, and cowpeas. Thus the feed program in the form of pasture can be greatly supplemented in winter pastures seeded in fall of 1954, summer cover seeded in 1955, and then seeded again to a cover in the fall of 1955.

Pasturing is permitted with good management, but the crop cannot be harvested for hay, ensilage, or seed in 1955.

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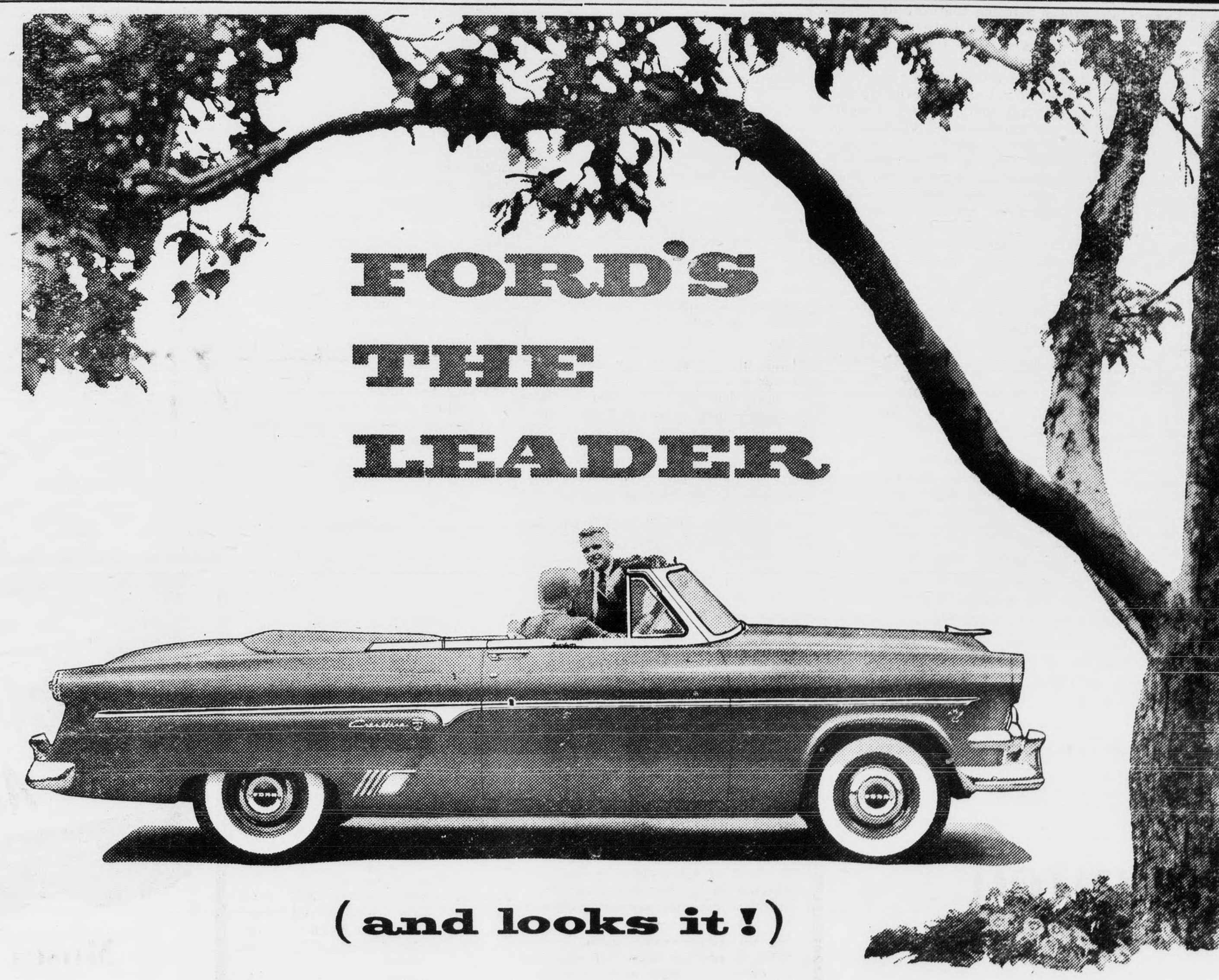

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